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DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

- 1. Claims 1, 3-8 allowed.
- 2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In terms of claim 1, the prior art of record does not teach alone or in combination a electronic circuit comprising an electronic circuit that connects a selection of input nodes to a first output node while performing a exclusive logic function, and a **connection** that includes at least a buffer and an inverter that connects an input node to a second output node through the buffer and an input node to a third output node through the inverter while bypassing the combinatorial circuit, in combination with all other elements in claim 1.

As to claims 4-7, the claims are allowed as they depend on and add further limitations to a allowable claim 1.

In terms of claim 3, the prior art of record does not teach alone or in combination, a electronic circuit comprising an electronic circuit that connects a selection of input nodes to a first output node while performing a exclusive logic function and a second output node coupled to a buffer connected to an input node as well as a third output node coupled to an inverter via a connection that bypasses the combinatorial circuit in combination with all the elements in claim 3.

In terms of claim 8, the prior art of record does not teach alone of in combination a method for testing an electronic device, including the steps of connecting a second

output node to an input node and a third output node to an input node via a **connection** that bypasses the combinatorial circuit and which includes at least a buffer and an inverter, wherein the inverter connects the third output to an input node and the buffer connects the second output node to an input node, in combination with all other elements in claim 8.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

- 3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US Patents to De Jong et al. (6,622,108), Chou (6,591,384) and Birkner et al. (4,789,951).
- 4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Isla-Rodas whose telephone number is (571) 272-5056. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ha Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-1678. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Richard Isla-Rodas October 14, 2006

VINH NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A-u.2829 10/16/06